the engineering staff may be utilised to bring minor works to a standard of efficiency.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 74.

Recovery of contributions for repairs of tanks as an arrear of land revenue.

Mr. Amble Anniah Pandit, Mysore District Board.

Summary of discussion.—As soon as an estimate for repairing a tank is prepared by the Public Works Department and the ryots or nine-tenths of them holding lands thereunder have executed *muchalikas* agreeing to pay the prescribed contribution, the work may be put in hand and the contribution, if not paid within a specified time, recovered as a revenue demand with interest at one pie per rupee per month. In the case of the Malligere tank in the Chamrajnagar Taluk, the ryots have themselves executed *muchalikas* agreeing to the contribution being recovered as an arrear of land revenue in case of default more than two years ago, but the work has not been sanctioned and the Public Works Department is insisting upon the entire amount of contribution being paid up before the work is commenced. Even if there should be any objection to levy contribution compulsorily from ryots that do not agree to it, it does not apply to cases in which ryots are willing to abide by such a condition.

Mr. Dasappa, Bangalore District Board.—No rule should be passed regarding the compulsory levy of contribution.

Reply of Government.—The case of the Malligere tank referred to by the member will be enquired into. Even under the present rules, Government have allowed works below Rs. 25,000 to be commenced where the full amount of contribution has not been paid and the ryots have executed the necessary *muchalikas*. Each case should be represented separately.

SUBJECT No. 75.

Locking sluices, etc., of tanks and channels.

Messrs. Hutchveere Gowda, Gubbi Taluk; and Hanumantha Rao, Devanhalli Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Under all large tanks there should be a system of locking the channel sluices to prevent the needless waste of water. The *nirganti* is not present at all times and water is taken surreptitiously at night. Each sluice should therefore have a separate lock, and water allowed to be taken only at stated intervals.

Reply of Government.—The Deputy Commissioners will be required to ascertain, in consultation with the Public Works Department, the cases in which it is necessary to supply such locks and take the requisite action.

SUBJECT No. 76.

Repairs to branch channels.

Messrs. Padmanna, and Venkatsamiah, Nanjangud Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The present rule directing that the annual repairs of branch channels should be done by ryots is not a good one, as the object of opening branch channels will be frustrated when the ryots neglect to do their work. In the case of the Rampur channel, for instance, the distinction between the main channel and the branch channels has been most arbitrarily made. The repairs of branch channels should also

be undertaken by Government as in the case of main channels. There is no difference between branch and main channels so far as *kandayam* and contribution are concerned.

Reply of Government.—It is not possible to exempt ryots altogether from repairing branch channels, but the case of any important channels classed as branch channels which it is desirable for Government to maintain may be brought to the notice of Government separately. The Public Works Department will be asked to specify in consultation with the Revenue Commissioner which are the main channels and which the subsidiary channels.

SUBJECT No. 77.

Restoration of tanks in State Forests.

Messrs. Dasappa and Chowdaiya, Arsikere Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Tanks and *kattes* in State Forests which are now in disrepair may be restored as they will be of great use to men and cattle.

Reply of Government.—This is being done as far as it is necessary and possible.

SUBJECT No. 78.

Trees on tank bunds.

Mr. B. Gangiah, Mulbagal Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—As ryots maintain the tanks by doing earthwork, etc., the produce of the trees on the tank bunds may be given free to them.

Reply of Government.—The question is being considered in connection with the Tank *Panchayet* Bill, where it is proposed to assign the income arising from the trees to the *Panchayet*.

SUBJECT No. 79.

Auction sales for arrears of revenue.

Mr. Malali Venkataramaiya, Manjarabad Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The purchaser of a land sold for arrears of revenue is liable to pay the assessment on the land from the date of the sale. Very often sales are not confirmed within a reasonable time after the sale but are confirmed after a year or two from the date of the sale. The purchaser is not able to consider his rights secure and to cultivate the land in the meantime. He is thus put to a heavy loss by the operation of the existing rules. A rule may therefore be passed to the effect that if the confirmatory order is received by the purchaser after the close of the cultivating season, he may not be held liable to pay the assessment for that year.

Reply of Government.—Under Section 189 of the Land Revenue Code, the sale proceeds are to be applied first to defraying the expenses of the sale and then to the payment of the arrears due at the date of the confirmation of the sale. The liability of the auction purchaser for the assessment before the confirmation of the sale, is ordinarily not likely to be enforced. Instructions will be issued to the effect that where the sale has not been confirmed within a given period, say, three months after the sale, the auction purchaser should not be held liable for any assessment for that year.